

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00779 140727Z

14-11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 SY-05

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3693

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0779

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPRS ASEC AEMR AO

SUBJECT: NEED FOR PLANNING ON AIR EVACUATION OF U.S. MISSIONARIES

REF: LUANDA 634

1. DR JOYCE MEYERS, THE AMCIT DIRECTOR OF A LARGE U.S. MISSION AT BELA VISTA, NEAR NOVA LISBOA, HAS WRITTEN TO TELL US OF THE DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN HER AREA AND TO INQUIRE ABOUT EVACUATION POSSIBILITIES.

2. HER MISSION, DONDI, IS WHERE JONAS SAVIMBI AND MANY OF UNITA'S LEADERS WERE TRAINED AND UNTIL A FEW WEEKS AGO THE MISSIONARIES THERE WERE CERTAIN THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO WEATHER THE STORM IN THE LEE OF UNITA'S AND SAVIMBI'S PROTECTION. IN HER LETTER REV MEYERS TOLD US THERE WAS AN MPLA PROVOKED INCIDENT AT THE TOWN OF BELA VISTA ON MAY 31 THAT CAUSED EVERYONE TO FLEE THE TOWN. SHE IS NOW VERY CONCERNED FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THOSE AT HER MISSION AND WANTS TO KNOW HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO BRING IN AN AIRCRAFT TO EVACUATE THEM IF THEY ARE CUT OFF FROM ROAD TRAVEL TO NAMIBIA.

3. WE HAVE ADVISED HER, AS WELL AS OTHER U.S. MISSIONARIES IN THE CENTER OF ANGOLA, THAT THEY SHOULD ERR ON THE SIDE OF

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CAUTION WHEN DECIDING TO EVACUATE. WE FEAR THAT THEY WILL

HANG ON TOO LONG AND FIND THEMSELVES IN AN UNTENABLE POSITION. WE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY TO HELP US IN THESE RURAL AREAS AND WE SUGGEST CONTINGENCY PLANNING BEGIN FOR EMERGENCY AIR EVACUATION OF THE MISSIONS. (DEPARTMENT SEE ENCLOSURE TO LUANDA A-25 FOR LOCATION OF MISSIONS, RUNWAY LENGTH, COMPOSITION AND DIRECTION. RSO IN PRETORIA ALSO HAS ENCLOSURE ENTITLED "EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR AMERICANS IN THE NOVA LISBOA REGION"). IF THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF USE OF DAO OR OTHER USG AIRCRAFT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS EVACUATION, WE SHOULD PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO THEM ASAP. IF AIRCRAFT ARE AVAILABLE, IT WOULD HELP US TO KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THEY COULD OR COULD NOT BE LANDED, LEAD TIME IN CALLING FOR THEM AND LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS.

4. ONE ALTERNATIVE TO USG AIR EVACUATION WOULD BE USE OF LOCAL AIR TAXIS. THIS WOULD ONLY BE FEASIBLE IF LUANDA WERE RELATIVELY QUIET AND THE MAIN DISTURBANCES WERE IN THE CENTRAL REGION. AIR TAXIS WERE EXTENSIVELY USED DURING THE RECENT EVACUATION OF WHITES AND BLACKS FROM THE FIGHTING IN DEMBOS ON MAY 28-31. WE WILL URGE THE MISSIONS TO USE THIS METHOD IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION ONE OF THE MISSIONS (BONGO), HAS A FOUR-PASSENGER LIGHT PLANE AT ITS STRIP AND LIMITED EVACUATION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THIS MEANS.

5. TOTAL AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN THE AREA NUMBER 52. NUMBERS IN PARENTHESIS INDICATE CANADIAN AND BRITISH CITIZENS WHO WORK AT THESE MISSIONS WHOM WE MIGHT HAVE TO ASSIST.

CAVANGO	4 (5)
BELA VISTA	1 (5)
LONGONJO	14
NOVA LISBOA AND VICINITY	12
CHILONDA	1 (1)
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COLOTA	11
BIULA	1 (2)
NOVA CORDUNDO	4
SA DA BANDEIRA	4 (5)

PORTER

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NNN

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